

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 114539

O P 171505Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 919

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

BRIDGETOWN 271

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY PORT-OF-SPAIN 673

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE CU

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE ON CUBA

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REF: A. STATE 162196; B. STATE 162159

1. AT A RECEPTION LAST NIGHT GIVEN BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN HONOR OF FONMIN CALVANI, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BOTH TO VENEZUELAN DEPUTY FONMIN ZAMBRANO AND TO CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT PEREZ CHIRIBOGA.

2. LATTER CONFIRMED CATEGORICALLY (CF PARA TWO REF A) THAT COLOMBIA HAD NOW PLEDGED TO SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE RE FREEDOM OF ACTION ON RECOGNITION OF CUBA. I RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT THIS DECISION BY COLOMBIA HAD BEEN TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA'S VISIT TO CARACAS AND HIS DESIRE TO USE THIS SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELA AS A BARGAINING COUNTER IN WHAT UNDOUBTEDLY TO COLOMBIA IS THE MORE IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION RE DEFINITION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA IN GULF OF VENEZUELA.

3. WHEN I ASKED PEREZ HOW HIS HEADCOUNT WAS COMING ON OF GOVERNMENTS PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE, HE WAS DELIBERATELY VAGUE AND SAID ALL THE REPLIES HAD NOT YET COME IN. IN FACT, I GATHER FROM VARIOUS TELEGRAMS RECEIVED FROM OTHER ARA POSTS THAT SOME OAS AMBASSADORS IN CARACAS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DEFICIENT IN THEIR REPORTING OF THE VENEZUELAN AIDE MEMOIRE OF AUGUST 6, AND THAT AT LEAST IN CASE OF JAMAICA THE WORD NEVER REACHED KINGSTON. IN CONSEQUENCE, PEREZ CHIRIBOGA IS PROBABLY TELLING THE TRUTH; BUT IF IN FACT HE DID HAVE TWELVE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, I THINK HE WOULD HAVE SAID SO.

4. ON SEPARATE BUT NEVERTHELESS RELATED SUBJECT OF COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN NEGOTIATIONS TO DELIMIT THE TERRITORIAL SEA, ZAMBRANO INDICATED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING ON "VERY WELL." AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD ASKED CALVANI POINT BLANK HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROGRESSING AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT "WE HAVE MADE AT LEAST 70 PER CENT PROGRESS."

5. MY GUESS IS THAT VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA WOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE WITH SUCH FANFARE, INCLUDING TWO STATE RECEPTIONS AND LUNCHEON TODAY WITH CALDERA, IF IN FACT THE TWO
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GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW NOT CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE INTIMATIONS THAT NO FINAL ACT WILL BE SIGNED IN CARACAS BUT MIGHT AWAIT A RETURN VISIT BY CALVANI TO BOGOTA, MORE POLITICAL KUDOS WOULD ACCRUE TO CALDERA AND HIS PARTY IF VENUE OF ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT WERE THE CAPITAL OF VENEZUELA.
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